

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178313
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BR, SHUM

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE INITIATIVES FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN
JURIDICAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

DEXTER PASS TO SEYMOUR RUBIN

1. DEPARTMENT OFFERS FOLLOWING IDEAS FOR YOUR CONSIDERA-
TION AS POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR IAJC STUDY IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.

(A) PROCEDURAL GUARANTEES AGAINST TORTURE, SUMMARY
CONVICTION, AND PROLONGED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL. THE
OASGA IN GRENADA ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT "NO
CIRCUMSTANCES . . . CAN JUSTIFY TORTURE, SUMMARY CONVIC-
TION OR PROLONGED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL." BUT THERE IS
NO AGREED APPROACH FOR ENDING THESE ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS
WHERE THEY OCCUR. THE IAJC COULD UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF
LEGAL PROCEDURES WITH A VIEW TOWARD SPECIFYING THOSE WHICH
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PAGE 02 STATE 178313

ARE MOST EFFECTIVE IN GUARANTEEING THAT SUCH ABUSES DO NOT
OCCUR.

(B) PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE. FOLLOWING THE LEAD
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, THE IAJC MIGHT
OPEN ITSELF AS A FORUM FOR THE DISCUSSION OF OBSTACLES
ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES FACE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR PRO-

FESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THESE

PROBLEMS. THE IAJC MIGHT FOCUS ON THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL
OF THE DETAINEE AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY.
(THE ICJ HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A FULL-TIME SECRETARIAT
IN GENEVA ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF LAWYERS. IT WILL DOCUMENT
CASES OF ATTORNEYS OR JUDGES INHIBITED FROM CARRYING OUT
THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, SEEK PROTECTION THROUGH LOCAL

BAR ASSOCIATIONS, AND PUBLISH PERIODIC REPORTS.)

(C) LAW AND PRACTICE IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE IAJC
MIGHT REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS INTENDED TO
PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARTICULAR AREAS (E.G., DISCRIMIN-
ATION) OR STUDY THE IMPACT OF JUDICIAL DISCRETION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS (E.G., UNIFORMITY IN SENTENCING). VANCE

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